CLAIMS LISTING

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) Workpiece with a substrate of ceramic, metal or polymer, the substrate having a surface which is conditioned to form a stable connection with a polymer and which is provided with a silica layer and, on top of this, with a silane coupling agent,

characterized in that

the substrate, the silica layer and the silane coupling agent are sterile, and

on top of the silane coupling agent, there is a preserving protective layer which is a polymethyl methacrylate, a Bis GMA, an epoxy resin or a phenolic resin and is sterile and/or can be sterilized after polymerization, said protective layer being an ~~is provided as the~~ activatable first component of a multi-component adhesive which can be formed at the time of use ~~is formed~~ by addition of at least one further adhesive component.

2. (ORIGINAL) Workpiece according to Claim 1, characterized in that the sterile and/or sterilizable preserving protective layer is made of polymethyl methacrylate.

3. (ORIGINAL) Workpiece according to Claim 1, characterized in that the sterile and/or sterilizable preserving protective layer is made of BisGMA.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) Workpiece according to Claim 1, characterized in that the sterile and/or sterilizable preserving protective layer is made of epoxy resin.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) Workpiece according to Claim 1, characterized in that the sterile and/or sterilizable preserving protective layer is made of phenolic resin.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) Workpiece according to ~~one of the preceding claims,~~ claim 1 characterized in that the sterile and/or sterilizable preserving protective layer has a thickness of < 100 µm.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) Workpiece according to ~~one of the preceding claims,~~ claim 1 characterized in that the substrate has a surface conditioned to form a stable connection to ~~a polymeric adhesive~~ said protective layer.

8 and 9(CANCELLED)

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) Method for producing a workpiece ~~according to~~ as claimed in claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims, in~~ which comprises cleaning the surface of ~~the~~ a substrate ~~is cleaned~~, applying a silica layer ~~is then applied~~ to the cleaned substrate using a high-vacuum evaporation ~~unit~~ and ~~is then wetted~~ wetting the silica layer on the substrate with a silane coupling agent,

characterized by the steps of ~~in that~~

generating carboxyl groups thereon by means of a low-pressure plasma process after the substrate surface has been cleaned, ~~carboxyl groups are generated thereon by means of a low-pressure plasma process,~~ and

~~in order to preserve the surface which has been treated in this way, with the silica layer and the silane coupling agent, until further processing,~~ applying to the cleaned surface on which carboxyl groups have been generated a sterile and/or sterilizable preserving protective layer which is a polymethyl methacrylate, a Bis GMA, an epoxy resin or a phenolic resin and is ~~applied as~~ the activatable first component of a multi-component adhesive which can be formed at the time of use ~~is formed~~ by addition of at least one further adhesive component.

11 (Original) Method for producing a workpiece according to Claim 10,

characterized in that the vapour-deposition of the silica layer is effected in a reproducible manner using a shutter system.

12. (Currently amended) Method for ~~making use of~~ using a workpiece ~~according to one of the preceding claims~~ as claimed in claim 1,

characterized in that

after sterile intermediate storage, the workpiece is first provided on its conditioned surface with a monomeric adhesive component in order to activate the protective layer, and a polymeric adhesive component is then applied on top of ~~this~~ the activated protective layer, ~~these two~~ the monomeric and polymeric adhesive components forming, with the protective layer, a multi-component adhesive ~~together with the protective layer~~.